

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.(currently amended) An ultrasonic surgical instrument comprising:

[[a]] an ultrasonic blade having a one-half wave segment comprising a first [segment] portion, [[and]] a second [segment] portion and a third portion, [comprising] and the first [segment] portion [further] comprising a first cross-sectional area [greater than] and the second and third portions comprising a second cross-sectional area.

2.(currently amended) An ultrasonic surgical instrument comprising:

- a) a housing;
- b) a tubular sheath having a proximal end joined to the housing, and a distal end;
- c) an ultrasonic waveguide positioned within the tubular sheath and having an end effector extending distally of the distal end of the tubular sheath; the waveguide [comprising a first cross-sectional area greater than a second cross-sectional area] having a one-half wave segment comprising a first portion, a second portion and a third portion, and the first portion comprising a first cross-sectional area and the second and third portions comprising a second cross-sectional area.

3.(original) The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 2 further comprising a clamp arm pivotally mounted on the distal end of the tubular sheath for pivotal movement with respect to the end effector for clamping tissue between the clamp arm and end effector.

4.(new) The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the first cross-sectional area is greater than the second cross-sectional area.

5.(new) The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the first cross-sectional area is less than the second cross-sectional area.

6.(new) The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the first cross-sectional area is constant.

7.(new) The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the second cross-sectional area is constant.

8.(new) The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 4, wherein the second cross-sectional area is variable.

9.(new) The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 5, wherein the second cross-sectional area is variable.

10.(new) The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the second portion is located proximal to the first portion.

11.(new) The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the third portion is located distal to the first portion.

12.(new) An ultrasonic surgical instrument comprising:

an ultrasonic blade having:

i) a first one-half wave segment comprising a first portion, a second portion and a third portion, and the first portion comprising a first cross-sectional area and the second and third portions comprising a second cross-sectional area; and

ii) a second one-half wave segment comprising a fourth portion, a fifth portion and a sixth portion, and the fourth portion comprising a third cross-sectional area and the fifth and sixth portions comprising a fourth cross-sectional area.

13.(new) The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 12, wherein the third cross-sectional area is equal to the first cross-sectional area.

14.(new) The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 12, wherein the second cross-sectional area is equal to the fourth cross-sectional area.